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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1939

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

of

THE BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb

Sanitary Inspector

S. Shimmin

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute
Member of Institute of Hygiene

A N N U A L R E P O R T

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my First Annual Report respecting the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year ending 31st. December, 1939.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Health the Report has been made as brief and concise as possible.

Owing to the many additional and exceptional duties which have been imposed on the Staff as a result of the War, routine work has had to be somewhat curtailed, but essential and urgent matters which affect the public health are receiving careful attention.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

John Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	49,628
Registrar General's estimate of:-	
(a) Resident population, mid-1939	6,295
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	6,552
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Book	2,046
Rateable Value	£30,766
Sum represented by a penny rate	£113

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District is essentially agricultural, most of the land being grazed.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Legitimate	M. 63	F. 38	Total	101
	Illegitimate	M. 3	F. 2	Total	5
		66	40		106

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1939	16.84

Still Births	Legitimate	M. 3	F. 4	Total 7

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births	61.06
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.59

Deaths	M. 36	F. 41	Total 77

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average populations...	11.75
Comparative Death Rate (i.e. allowing for age and sex distribution)	10.22
Death Rate for England and Wales	12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):-

	Deaths
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	-
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes ...	-

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Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	71.42
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	74.76
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	50

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females
All Causes	36	41
Cancer	4	3
Measles	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diarrohea	-	-
Diphtheria	1	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	3
Other Tuberculosis	1	-
Diabetes	1	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	1	3
Heart Disease	9	7
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	6
Bronchitis	-	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	-	2
Other Digestive Diseases	-	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	5
Congenital Causes	4	-
Senility	4	4
Suicide	1	-
Other Violence	2	1
Other defined diseases	3	1
Ill-defined or not known	2	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (1) Public Health Officers of the Authority

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland combined Districts in which this District is included.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor and is a whole-time Officer.

(ii) Laboratory Facilities

The following examinations from your area were carried out during the year in the County Laboratory, Leicester:-

Throat Swab for Diphtheria	511
Sputa Swab for Tubercle Bacilli	22
Blood for Wassermann	7
Hair for Ringworm	1
Urine, General and Bacteriological	6
Milk examinations: Bacteriological	130
Urine for T.B.	4
Differential Blood Counts	1
Sewage and Water Analyses	17
Milk for fat content	1
	700

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (1) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a) from wells	Nil
(b) From pipe supply	Nil

Number of wells:-

(a) Closed	Nil
(b) Cleansed, repaired, etc.	Nil

Number of cases in which pipe supply was substituted for well water	113

Number of Parishes without a piped w ter supply 19

Number of Parishes with piped water supply:-

(a) from public mains 8

(b) From private Reservoirs 9

Particulars of the quality of existing Supplies:-

(a) Public Mains ... ... Good

(b) Private piped supplies ... ... Fair

In Billesdon all houses are not yet connected.

Stand taps were provided for water to be drawn for use of evacuees. There was a shortage of water at Tilton, also at Owston, shortage being by reason of bad distribution.

Extensions have been made for the completion of Leicester Corporation Mains to Billesdon and Houghton.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Number of Cesspools in District at end of 1939 399

Number of cesspools abolished during 1939 ... ... Nil

Number of cesspools constructed during 1939 36

Particulars of any extension during the year:-

(a) Sewerage:-

Private enterprise extension, Scraptoft Lane.

(b) Sewage disposal - none.

(c) Particulars of any scheme which is at present under consideration:-

Stoughton Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works.
Thurnby and Bushby, main drainage.

2. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in district at end of 1939:-

(1) Privvies 120
(2) Pail Closets 1,392
(3) Water Closets... 547

Number of Privvies and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year ... ... Nil

Number of Privvies converted to Pail Closets during the year ... ... Nil

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is removed and disposed of as follows:-

Contract, Great Glen and Burton Overy. Disposal by crude dumping.

Direct labour, Thurnby, Houghton, Stoughton, Scraptoft, Hungarton, Tilton. Disposal by controlled tipping.

Means adopted for the cleansing of earth closets Privvies, Ashpits and cesspools:-

Contract, Great Glen and Burton Overy.

Direct labour, Thurnby, Houghton, Stoughton, Tilton, Scraptoft, Hungarton, Billesdon. Disposal by trenching into arable land for night soil and disposal on grass for cesspools.

(iii) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No observations were taken.

(iv) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received 179

Total number of defects or nuisances discovered 90

Nature of inspections:-

	Inspections	Re-visits
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	466	-
Tents, Vans, etc.	2	-
Slaughterhouses	20	-
Food premises	5	-
Dairies and Cowsheds	60	-
Offensive trades	-	-
Animal keeping	-	-
Workshops, etc.	45	-
Shops	24	-
Other premises	-	-
	622	

NOTICES

Preliminary	Housing	Other
Outstanding on 1st. Jan	-	-
Issued during the year	150	-
Complied with during year	125	-
Statutory action necessary	-	-
Outstanding 31st. December	-	-
Statutory		
Outstanding 1st. January	6	-
Issued during the year	-	-
Complied with during year	6	-
Outstanding 31st. December	-	-
Summary Action		
Number of Summonses issued	-	
Number of convictions obtained	-	

(v) SHOPS

Action taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

Mainly rural shops. Nothing to report.

(vi) CAMPING SITES

Nothing to report.

(vii) REGULATED BUILDINGS

Common Lodging Houses — There are no Lodging Houses in the District.

Tents, Vans, etc. — Two inspections were made. General conditions were noted as being very unsatisfactory.

Canal Boats — There are no Canal Boats in the area.

Offensive Trades — There are no Offensive Trades in the area.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Nothing to report

(ix) SCHOOLS

The Sanitary conditions are mainly fair. The water supply to Burton Overy School is very unsatisfactory.

(x) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Publicly owned. There are no publicly owned Baths and Pools in area.

Privately owned. There is one privately owned swimming pool in the area, which is spring fed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

	Cowkeepers	Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers
Number on the Register ...	120	45
Number of inspections of premises	60	
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	7	-
Number of contraventions found during the year	3	-
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	10	-
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st. December... ...	-	-

Total Contraventions

	Outstanding from previous year	Found during Year	Remedied during Year	Outstanding on 31st. December.
Cleansing	2	-	-	-
Structural alterations	2	-	-	-
Utensils	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-

MILK SAMPLING

No milk samples have been taken during the year.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936 and 1938

No Licences were issued during the year.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Number of Public Abattoirs in the District ... Nil

Private Slaughter Houses:-

	In Jan. 1939	In Dec. 1939
Number registered	2	2
Number Licensed	3	3

Number of visits to premises other than at times of slaughter	16
Number of inspections of meat at times of slaughter	32
Number of Knacker yards in the District	-
Number of visits to Knacker Yards	-

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total weight in lbs.
Number killed (if known)						
Number inspected	6	-	-	30	-	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	2	-
x Diphtheria	15	10	2
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Erysipelas	1	1	
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Measles	1	-	-

x The outbreak of Diphtheria occurred soon after the reception of evacuees from Islington.

Regulations for the notification of Measles and Whooping Cough came into operation on October 23rd, 1939.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1939

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under one	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	-

H O U S I N G

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defedts (under Public Health or Housing Acts 90

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 90

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 90

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 180

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to the health as to be unfit for human habitation 15

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 75

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers 70

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTIRY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 ofvthe Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 5

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners 8

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil

(b) No proceedings under Public Health Acts were taken

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... 12

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(d) No proceedings under Section 12 of the H ousing Act, 1936, were taken.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	None
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein.	None
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	None
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	20